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REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3, 6, 8-14, 16, 19 and 21-30 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anderson (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0052923) patent application publication in view of the Saliba, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0037315) patent application publication. The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 4 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anderson publication in view of the Saliba, et al. publication in view of the McArdle (U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,686) patent. Applicant's claims 5 and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Anderson publication in view of the Saliba, et al. publication and in view of the Baxter (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,306) patent. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30 and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30 to better define applicant's invention. In particular, applicant's independent claims 1 has been amended to recite a communication system having a server for providing a Web E-mail service to a Web browser of a client, wherein said server comprises: management means for managing a secret key for decrypting an encrypted E-mail message addressed to a user's mail address, the E-mail message being encrypted by a public key corresponding to the user's mail address, wherein the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address for decrypting the encrypted E-mail message is not managed by the Web browser of the client; web encryption communication means for establishing a Web encryption communication with the Web browser of the client,

- 14 -

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and communicating with the Web browser of the client by the Web encryption communication established by said web encryption communication means; authentication means for executing authentication of a use allowance of the secret key managed by said management means to the Web browser of the client when the Web browser of the client requests to decrypt the encrypted E-mail message while the server communicates with the client by said established Web encryption communication; decrypting means for making a decrypted message by decrypting the encrypted E-mail message using the secret key managed by said management means, the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address, in the case where the use allowance of the secret key managed by said management means is authenticated by said authentication means; and transmission control means for controlling to transmit the decrypted E-mail message decrypted by said decrypting means to the client through the Web encryption communication established by said web encryption communication means. Applicant's independent claims 13, 14 and 26-30 have been similarly amended.

In applicant's invention of the above claims a server is used which includes management means for managing a secret key for decrypting an encrypted E-mail message addressed to a user's mail address, the E-mail message being encrypted by a public key corresponding to the user's mail address, wherein the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address for decrypting the encrypted E-mail message is not managed by the Web browser of the client, and which also includes a decrypting means for making a decrypted message by decrypting the encrypted E-mail message using the secret key managed by said management means, the secret key corresponding to the user's mail address. The constructions of applicant's amended claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, including the aforesaid features, are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

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More particularly, in the Anderson publication, a server receives a message encrypted with a public key of the server (Page 5, Column [0036], lines 10-14; FIG. 3, Step 320), and the server decrypts the message encrypted with the public key of the server with the server's private key (Page 5, paragraph [0038], lines 9-11; FIG. 5, Step 515). The Anderson publication also discloses that when a message is transmitted from a server to a client, the server transmits the message by encrypting the message with a public key of the client (Page 5, paragraph [0039], lines 17-22; FIG. 5, Step 545; paragraph [0040], lines 16-25), and that the encrypted message is decrypted by the client with the client's private key managed by itself (paragraph [0044], lines 5-9).

Thus, in the Anderson publication, a server receives a message from a client encrypted with the public key of the server and decrypts the message with the server's private key. In contrast, in applicant's claimed invention, the server receives an E-mail message encrypted by a public key corresponding to the user's mail address, and the server decrypts the message with a secret key corresponding to the user's mail address.

Furthermore, in the Anderson publication, the client has to manage its private key to decrypt an encrypted message sent from the server. Again, this contrast with applicant's claimed invention, in which messages are decrypted by the server with a secret key corresponding to the user's mail address, and the decrypted messages are transmitted to the client, avoiding the need for the client to manage a private key.

Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, each of which recites one or more of the above features, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the cited Anderson publication. Moreover, the Saliba, et al. publication, which discloses decryption of SSL communications, and the McArdle and the Baxter patents fail to

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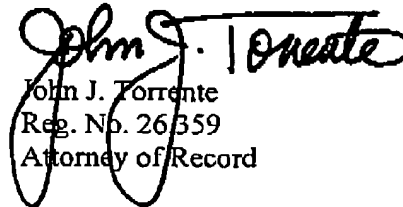
add anything to the Anderson publication to change this conclusion. Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, and their respective dependent claims patentably distinguish over the Anderson publication, the Saliba, et al. publication and the McArdle and the Baxter patents, taken alone or in combination.

In view of the above, applicant's amended independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 26-30, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record, and are therefore submitted as patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: July 5, 2006

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